

CIA/OCI/BRIEF 179-75
19 NOVEMBER 1975

Approved For Release 2001/08/21 : CIA-RDP86T00608R000300010081-0

SECRET/NFD

1 OF 1

BRIEF

Approved For Release 2001/08/21 : CIA-RDP86T00608R000300010081-0

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SECRET NOFORN

WESTERN HEMISPHERE BRIEF 179-75-4

1. ARGENTINA: THE GOVERNMENT'S DECISION TO ADVANCE PRESIDENTIAL ELECTIONS FROM 1977 TO LATE NEXT YEAR COULD LESSEN PRESSURE FOR PRESIDENT PERON TO RESIGN.4

THE MOVE WAS PROBABLY URGED ON PERON BY TOP GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS ANXIOUS TO AVOID A MILITARY TAKE-OVER THAT WOULD SCUTTLE THEIR OWN CHANCES OF COMPETING FOR THE PRESIDENCY. IT MAY CONSTITUTE A CONCESSION TO PERON'S CRITICS AND SIGNAL HER WILLINGNESS, AT LEAST FOR THE MOMENT, TO BE RESPONSIVE TO THEM. THEY, IN TURN, MAY BE DISARMED. NATIONAL ATTENTION WOULD QUICKLY FOCUS ON PREPARATIONS FOR THE ELECTION.4

THE DECISION COULD, HOWEVER, BE A PLOY DESIGNED TO EASE STRAINS TEMPORARILY WHILE PERON OR ONE OF HER INTIMATES CONTEMPLATES SOME SURPRISING MOVE TO THROW HER OPPONENTS OFF BALANCE. THERE IS AMPLE PRECEDENT FOR THIS. {CONFIDENTIAL}4

2.//MEXICO: THE MEXICAN GOVERNMENT WILL SOON BEGIN FOR THE FIRST TIME TO USE HERBICIDES TO DESTROY OPIUM AND MARIJUANA CROPS.//4
//THE SPRAYING WILL BE PART OF AN INTENSIFIED ERADICATION

25X6

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NOVEMBER 17, 1975

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OUTGOING MESSAGE

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CLASSIFICATION

SECRET NOFORN

MESSAGE HANDLING INDICATOR

DATE-TIME GROUP

CITE

MESSAGE REFERENCE NUMBER

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EAST ASIA BRIEF 177-75.4

1. THAILAND-LAOS: NO FURTHER FIGHTING HAS BEEN REPORTED, FOLLOWING THE SERIOUS BORDER CLASH ON THE MEKONG RIVER ON NOVEMBER 17 AND 18 BETWEEN LAOS AND THAILAND.4

25X1C ACCORDING TO [REDACTED], LAO FORCES DAMAGED ONE THAI NAVAL CRAFT, WHICH MAY HAVE STRAYED INTO LAO WATERS, AND INFLICTED SEVERAL CASUALTIES DURING A NINE-HOUR CLASH ON THE MEKONG SEVERAL MILES SOUTH OF VIENTIANE. THAI TROOPS, TANKS, ARMORED PERSONNEL CARRIERS, AND MORTARS HAVE BEEN SENT TO THE SCENE, AND TWO THAI T-28S HAVE PROVIDED AIR COVER. THE LAO ALSO MOVED IN REINFORCEMENTS, INCLUDING TANKS. EACH SIDE IS BLAMING THE OTHER FOR THE INCIDENT.4

THE THAI HAVE RECALLED THEIR AMBASSADOR IN VIENTIANE "FOR CONSULTATIONS" AND HAVE CLOSED THE BORDER ACROSS FROM THE VIENTIANE AREA. PRIME MINISTER KHUKRIT TOLD THE PRESS ON NOVEMBER 18 THAT HE HOPED THERE WOULD BE NO MORE VIOLENCE, AND THE THAI FOREIGN MINISTRY HAS BEEN ORDERED TO ARRANGE NEGOTIATIONS "TO RESOLVE PROBLEMS ARISING FROM THE INCIDENTS." THE LAO, HOWEVER, HAVE CONSISTENTLY REFUSED TO TALK WITH BANGKOK ABOUT REDUCING TENSIONS UNTIL THE THAI RESPOND

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EUROPEAN BRIEF 179-75.4

1. PORTUGAL: INCREASING TENSION BETWEEN THE GOVERNMENT AND THE COMMUNISTS HAS GIVEN RISE TO RENEWED COMMUNIST WARNINGS OF A RIGHTIST COUP, FURTHER DISCUSSION OF A PLAN TO MOVE THE GOVERNMENT TO THE NORTH, AND, IN THE AZORES, DEMONSTRATIONS PROTESTING "ANARCHY" ON THE MAINLAND.4

ON TUESDAY, TWO COMMUNIST-DOMINATED LISBON DAILIES ALLEGED THAT A COUP WOULD BE LAUNCHED ON WEDNESDAY BY PROMINENT ANTI-COMMUNIST OFFICERS LED BY NORTHERN MILITARY REGION COMMANDER PIRES VELOSO. THE COMMUNISTS CHARGED THAT THE COMMANDER, UPSET BY THE LARGE PRO-COMMUNIST DEMONSTRATION ON SUNDAY, DECIDED ON A COUP TO PUT AN END TO "THIS SORT OF MUTINY." THE ARMED FORCES GENERAL STAFF DENIED THE STORY AND SAID LEGAL ACTION WOULD BE TAKEN AGAINST THE TWO ~~XXXXXXXXXX~~ NEWSPAPERS.4

PIRES VELOSO HAS BEEN A TARGET OF THE COMMUNISTS SINCE HE WAS NAMED TO REPLACE THE PRO-COMMUNIST FORMER COMMANDER IN SEPTEMBER. LIKE OTHER PROMINENT MEMBERS OF THE PRESENT GOVERNMENT WHO HAVE BEEN HARSHLY ATTACKED, PIRES VELOSO HAS BEEN PARTICULARLY ZEALOUS IN

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STAMPING OUT COMMUNIST INFLUENCE IN HIS COMMAND.4

ALTHOUGH IN THIS INSTANCE THE COUP RUMORS APPEAR TO BE INSPIRED BY THE COMMUNISTS TO SERVE THEIR OWN ENDS, THE POSSIBILITY OF A RIGHTIST ATTEMPT CANNOT BE RULED OUT. LEFTIST STRENGTH IN THE LISBON AREA, HOWEVER, WOULD LIKELY GIVE THE RIGHTISTS PAUSE BEFORE UNDERTAKING ACTION THERE AT THIS TIME.4

DISCUSSION OF A PLAN TO MOVE THE GOVERNMENT TO PORTO CONTINUED IN THE POPULARLY ELECTED CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY ON TUESDAY. THE PLAN, FIRST BROACHED LAST WEEK WHEN PRIME MINISTER AZEVEDO WAS PREVENTED FROM LEAVING HIS RESIDENCE FOR TWO DAYS BY PRO-COMMUNIST DEMONSTRATORS, REPORTEDLY IS FAVORED BY THE CENTER-LEFT POPULAR DEMOCRATS AND SOCIALISTS BUT IS SEEN BY THE PRIME MINISTER AND OTHERS AS PREMATURE. WHILE THE CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY, WHOSE JOB IS TO DRAFT THE NEW CONSTITUTION, PRESUMABLY COULD MOVE ITS OWN PROCEEDINGS TO PORTO, IT HAS NO AUTHORITY TO DECIDE FOR THE GOVERNMENT. ONE GOVERNMENT OFFICIAL HAS DESCRIBED THE PLAN AS "HOT AIR."4

MEANWHILE, THE CONTINUING POLITICAL UNCERTAINTY IN LISBON PROMPTED DEMONSTRATIONS IN THE AZORES MON MONDAY. THEY WERE IN

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SUPPORT OF A TOUGH STATEMENT ISSUED LAST WEEKEND BY THE ISLANDS' GOVERNING JUNTA DECRYING WHAT IT DESCRIBED AS A STATE OF ANARCHY ON THE MAINLAND.4

THE DEMONSTRATIONS MONDAY WERE DENOUNCED BY THE SOCIALISTS, WHO HAVE SOUGHT TO DIVORCE THEMSELVES FROM SEPARATIST SENTIMENT IN THE AZORES. THERE WAS CONSIDERABLE CLAMOR FOR INDEPENDENCE DURING THE DEMONSTRATIONS, WHICH WERE WELL ATTENDED ON ALMOST ALL OF THE ISLANDS IN AN UNPRECEDENTED SHOW OF SOLIDARITY.4

THESE DEMONSTRATIONS ARE A CLEAR SIGNAL TO LISBON OF THE WIDE-
SPREAD CONCERN IN THE CONSERVATIVE ISLANDS OVER RECENT EVENTS ON
THE MAINLAND WHICH, IF NOT CHECKED, COULD ADVANCE THE INDEPENDENCE
CAUSE OF THE AZOREAN LIBERATION FRONT. {CONFIDENTIAL} E-ZIMPDET-4

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DATE: NOVEMBER 19, 1975

ORIG:

UNIT: OCI/FLO

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REPRESENTATIVES OF MOST PALESTINIAN AND LEBANESE LEFTIST GROUPS MET TUESDAY NIGHT TO "REVIEW THEIR SUPPORT" FOR KARAMI, ACCORDING TO PRESS REPORTS FROM BEIRUT. KAMAL JUMBLATT, HEAD OF THE PROGRESSIVE SOCIALIST PARTY AND SPOKESMAN FOR THE LEFTIST COALITION, DEMANDED EARLIER IN THE DAY THAT KARAMI SPELL OUT THE DETAILS OF THE REFORMS HE IS PROPOSING.4

IN A SPEECH TO PARLIAMENT, HOWEVER, KARAMI AVOIDED A DIRECT RESPONSE TO JUMBLATT. THE PRIME MINISTER FOR THE PAST WEEK HAS LIMITED HIMSELF TO LENGTHY BUT OBSCURE STATEMENTS DESIGNED TO CONVINCE MUSLIMS THAT REFORMS ARE COMING, WHILE AT THE SAME TIME ASSURING CHRISTIANS THAT THEY WILL INVOLVE "REINTERPRETATIONS" RATHER THAN AMENDMENTS TO THE CONSTITUTION. {CONFIDENTIAL}

2. NIGERIA: THE NEW MILITARY GOVERNMENT HAS BEGUN TO IMPLEMENT A SELECTIVE PURGE OF THE SOME 250,000-MAN ARMED FORCES. THIS COULD, IN TIME, AGGRAVATE THE ECONOMIC, POLITICAL, AND SOCIAL PROBLEMS WHICH ALREADY EXIST.4

THE NIGERIAN ARMED FORCES NUMBERED ONLY 9,000 AT THE OUTSET OF THE CIVIL WAR IN 1967. BY 1971 THE FIGURE HAD RISEN TO ABOUT

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280,000, AND NOW THE ARMED FORCES REPORTEDLY ARE THE LARGEST IN
BLACK AFRICA.4

THE EXTENT OF THE CONTEMPLATED REDUCTIONS IS UNCLEAR, BUT THE DISMISSALS ARE SAID TO BE DESIGNED TO RID THE SERVICES OF "DEAD WOOD" AND OF THOSE MOBILIZED DURING THE CIVIL WAR. IN ADDITION, MANY WILL PROBABLY BE RELIEVED OF DUTY PRIOR TO THE COMPLETION OF THEIR 15-YEAR TENURE AND WILL RECEIVE REDUCED PENSIONS. FULL BENEFITS AS WELL AS A REHABILITATION PLAN, HOWEVER, WILL BE GRANTED THOSE DISMISSED BECAUSE OF AGE OR POOR HEALTH.

THE NEW MILITARY GOVERNMENT IS ALREADY FACING POTENTIAL
OPPOSITION FROM VICTIMS OF LAST FALL'S PURGE OF SEVERAL HUNDRED
BUREAUCRATS AND SOME SENIOR ARMY OFFICERS. A LARGE NUMBER OF
UNEMPLOYED FORMER SERVICEMEN WILL ADD TO THE POTENTIAL FOR
UNREST IN THE COUNTRY. {SECRET} 4

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RELEASING OFFICER

COORDINATING OFFICERS

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CLASSIFICATION

REPRODUCTION BY OTHER THAN THE ISSUING OFFICE IS PROHIBITED

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